

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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FOR AMB VANCE, MALCOLM LAWRENCE, ED BEIGEL

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 25945 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO THE HAGUE,
HONG KONG, DEA WASH DC.

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 25945

DEA WASHDC FOR DEP ADM RODY

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH, NL, HK, SN

SUBJ: DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICER FOR BANGKOK

REF: A) THE HAGUE 4378; B) THE HAGUE 4985, C) BANGKOK 24448

SUMMARY. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE APPOINTMENT OF A NARCOTICS
ATTACHE TO DUTCH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK. END SUMMARY

1. THOUGH EMBASSY BANGKOK WAS ONLY INFO ADDRESSEE ON REFS A AND
B, WE WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO AFFIRM OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR
THE PROPOSAL THAT A DUTCH NARCOTICS ATTACHE BE ASSIGNED TO THEIR
EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

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2. THE PAST YEAR OR SO HAS BEEN AN ENCOURAGING INCREASE IN

EFFORTS BY CERTAIN THEIR COUNTRIES

(ESPECIALLY BRITIAN AND

CANADA AS WELL AS OURSELVES) IN URGING THE THAI TO INCREASE THEIR ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS. THE ADDITION OF A DUTCH OFFICER CAN IMPORTANTLY REINFORCE THESE EFFORTS. THAI ACTION TO DATE, WHILE ENCOURAGING IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS (RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF SEIZURES, SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES SEIZED, INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF THAI CUSTOMS, ETC.) CAN BE IMPROVED STILL FURTHER IF ADDITIONAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND EXPERTISE IS PROVIDED. A DUTCH ATTACHE, REPRESENTING A COUNTRY SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY HEROIN ORIGINATING IN THE "GOLDEN TRIANGLE", COULD CONTRIBUTE USEFULLY IN THIS RESPECT.

3. THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF ALL OF THE THIRD COUNTRY NARCOTICS OFFICERS IN THAILAND (ASIDE FROM THE U.S., CANADA AND BRITIAN HAVE NARCOTICS ATTACHES, AND AUSTRALIA HAS A REGIONAL NARCOTICS OFFICER IN KUALA LUMPUR WHO VISITS BANGKOK FREQUENTLY) IS, IN OUR VIEW, TO SERVE AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE RTG AND THEIR HOME GOVERNMENTS ON NARCOTICS RELATED MATTERS, AND TO COORDINATE SUPPRESSION EFFORTS INVOLVING THAILAND AND THEIR HOME COUNTRIES. IN THE CASE OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ALREADY HAVE NARCOTICS OFFICERS IN THAILAND, THE INCREASED EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND INCREASED COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT HAVE HAD IMPORTANT BENEFITS.

4. RECENT DUTCH EXPERIENCE WILL ILLUSTRATE THIS POINT. DURING THE FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION OF THE TWO DUTCH TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED ON AUGUST 30 (REF C), THAI CUSTOMS AND POLICE HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS IN GAINING ANY SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE FROM THE DEFENDANTS, UNTIL DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICERS ARRIVED AND CONDUCTED THEIR OWN QUESTIONING. NOT ONLY WAS THE THAI CASE HELPED TREMENDOUSLY, BUT THE DUTCH WERE ABLE TO LEARN A GREAT DEAL ABOUT TRAFFICKING BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE NETHERLANDS WHICH THEY OTHERWISE MIGHT NEVER HAVE KNOWN.

5. THE FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE THAT A DUTCH OFFICER WOULD GAIN OF ASIAN DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND ACCESS HE WOULD HAVE TO UP-TO-DATE INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING TRAFFICKING TO THE NETHERLANDS, WOULD HAVE IMMENSE VALUE FOR THE DUTCH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT. THERE WOULD BE THE ADDED BENEFIT OF BEING ABLE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH U.S. AND OTHER THIRD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY OFFICERS ALREADY IN BANGKOK. BANGKOK IS ALSO AN EXCELLENT LOCATION FOR EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH NARCOTICS OFFICIALS IN SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, AND OTHER IMPORTANT ASIAN TRANSSHIPMENT POINTS. (FYI: DESPITE SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON'S PRESS STATEMENT REPORTED IN REF B, WE SUSPECT THAT HONG KONG REMAINS AN IMPORTANT INTREPOT IN THE HEROIN TRADE THOUGH NOT AN ORIGINAL SOURCE).

6. DEA BANGKOK REGIONAL DIRECTOR ADDARIO EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN THE

NETHERLANDS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 4 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO REINFORCE
AND EXPAND ON THE ABOVE POINTS WITH EMBASSY THE HAGUE AND
APPROPRIATE DUTCH OFFICIALS. BURKE UNQTE: ROBINSON

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